





COUNTRY : LEBANON  
ORIGIN :   
SOURCE :   
PREPARED BY :   
FORWARDED BY :   
EVALUATION : C-5

REPORT NUMBER : RLB-320

DATE INFORMATION: 27 March 48

DATE OF REPORT : 29 March 48

MEETINGS OF THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE  
OF THE ARAB LEAGUE IN BEIRUT

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1. During the first meeting of the Committee, on Tuesday, March 16, 1948, Hamid FRANJIYAN, Lebanese Minister for Foreign Affairs, welcomed his colleagues, the members of the Committee, and fully explained the circumstances requiring their convocation. The Committee then examined reports from Arab delegates on Lake Success and exchanged views on diplomatic contacts made up to that time.

2. ADOPTION OF POLICY FOR PALESTINE SOLUTION

2. Each of the members explained his Government's viewpoint on steps proposed for the solution of the Palestine question. Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI, head of the Palestine delegation, showed great reserve on the positive usefulness of such steps. He asked that the fighting should continue until Palestine attains its rights by force. After discussions on this subject, the members all agreed on basic principles. At the next meeting the discussions ended in agreement on the following points:
  - a) To stop Jewish immigration completely.
  - b) To introduce restrictions preventing the transfer of lands to Jews through sales.
  - c) To establish a united independent state, one-third of which would consist of Jews of Palestine nationality.

3. AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND REPLY THEREON

3. After the above points were adopted, the Committee proceeded to discuss the American proposals on which the following decisions were reached:
  - a) Despite their desire to assist the United Nations to reach a just solution of the Palestine question, which would render

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Palestine a secure country, the Arabs regard that the Arab inhabitants of Palestine are in a state of legitimate defense of their right for self-determination and for the unity and independence of their country.

- b) *too who* The Arab states held that continual entry of Jews into Palestine would make the Arabs, in the not distant future, a minority, and would ~~become a danger~~ in the administration of their country, and ~~to its~~ prosperity. Therefore, the Arabs cannot permit the Jews to enter Palestine.
- c) Whereas the Jews constitute a minority in Palestine, it cannot possibly be accepted that the Jews occupy the first position in the new state. The measures, *which* the Arab states are demanding be applied in Palestine are already applied in all the democratic countries of the world.
- d) With regard to the withdrawal of volunteers, the Arabs regard these volunteers as blood relatives of the people of Palestine, and it is not possible to ask them to withdraw before the Jewish terrorists leave Palestine territory.
- e) The Arabs are not responsible for the disturbances in Palestine, because the Jews took the initiative in terrorist activities, not only against the Arabs, but also against the British forces. They are, therefore, in a state of legitimate defense against aggression.
- f) Being desirous to facilitate the United Nations mission in reaching a just solution to the Palestine question, the Arab countries will do their utmost to bring peace and stop the fighting, if the Jewish front will reciprocate and prevent the terrorists from entering Palestine, stop immigration, dissolve the Haganah, and prevent arming. *clawed concerning the*

(Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI objected to the *cessation of fighting.*)

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4. PETROLEUM COMPANIES

- 4 The Political Committee ~~continued~~, at its next meeting, <sup>Continued</sup> its study of the Palestine question in the light of information and reports received. After discussions, the Committee reached the following conclusions: that

~~The Political Committee has learned, through the development of recent events in the Security Council, that the credit for changing the American viewpoint goes in the first degree to the petroleum companies which urged the American Government to cease supporting partition. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the said companies.~~

5. TEMPORARY TRUSTEESHIP FOR PALESTINE

- 5 The Political Committee carefully examined the question of the proposed temporary international trusteeship for Palestine after the British forces leave. After heated debates, joined by the delegates of Syria, Palestine, Iraq, the Lebanon and Egypt - some of whom opposed the proposals while others had reservations - the Committee finally decided to accept the principle of temporary international trusteeship during the transition interval, provided that the restrictions of the British White Paper on immigration and the transfer of land would continue to be enforced. The mandate restrictions must also remain in force during the said interval without any change or amendment.

6. THE FEDERAL STATE

- 6 The Committee then discussed the project for a federal state. After discussions joined by the delegates of Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Transjordan and Palestine, the Committee found that the expression "Federal State" (Arabic: Dawlah Ittihadyyah) has many meanings, differing from one country to another. For example, the United States is a federated state, but each of its states enjoys a special internal independence. Switzerland, also a federated state, is completely different from the federation of the United States. It is known as a unified state. Here, certain members of the Political Committee showed caution toward the expression "Etat unitaire." After further discussions, it was decided to leave the definition of this expression to the adroitness and experience of the Arab representatives in Lake Success when they discuss such issues in international conferences.

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6. PALESTINIAN AFFAIRS AND DEVELOPMENT OF DIFFERENCES AMONG HIGH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7. The Committee then proceeded to examine the internal affairs of Palestine. Having listened to the statements of Isma'il SAFWAT Pasha, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of Liberation, and to the statements of the members of the Military Committee, it found that there was deep-rooted confusion in those affairs among the various Palestinian personalities, and that the continuation of such confusion would affect the whole Palestine question. The Committee also found that strong differences still exist among the various members of the Arab High Committee, and between Hajj Amin al-HUSAYNI and Fawzi Al-QANUJI, Commander of the Volunteer Forces. It was also found that differences exist among the commanders of the fighters and that there was no coordination in their operations. Moreover, the Committee found that vindictive activities had resulted from these differences, ~~due to the relations of different personalities to this and that group~~ and that the continuation of this situation would disintegrate the fighting front and would confuse the Palestine question from the general international standpoint. Therefore, the Committee decided, ~~in the light of these facts~~, to restrict all authority to itself, and that all matters connected with defense, ~~and coordination and direction of defense~~, should be referred to it. It also decided that no harm should be inflicted on any Arab, ~~because he owes allegiance to them and not to the Palestinian personality group.~~

*any particular Arab leader.*

7. SITUATION IN YEMEN AND RECOGNITION OF IMAM AHMAD

8. The Committee then discussed the situation in Yemen. The Committee deemed it advisable, in the light of reports it has received, to recommend to the Arab League that they recognize Imam Ahmad as King of Yemen and to authorize the Secretary General of the Arab League to write to His Majesty and to congratulate him, wishing that ~~the~~ Yemen will, during His Majesty's reign, be happy and prosperous, and that His Majesty will be tolerant and kind to those who opposed him. The Secretary General should also be authorized to express to His Majesty the League's readiness to offer all technical assistance which ~~the~~ Yemen may need in its bid for reform and progress.

~~This ended the extraordinary session.~~

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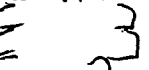
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9. Upon the completion of the meetings of the Political Committee, a communiqué was issued to the press.
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**PIPED NOTE:** The above account does not seem to be the official one, as it omits certain most important details of the meetings. For instance, it does not tell us anything about the question of sending AED representatives to the United States. It probably represents only what source could glean from discussions with associates in the Foreign Office.

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